(d) The Government of Maharashtra have been advised that the Trans-Harbour-Link project can be considered only when the proposal is submitted in the prescribed format.

Mumbai-Pune-Projccts

344. SHRI S.M.. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mumbai-Pune project has been given green signal in his absence, breaking all norms on environmental clearance, as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated the 17th October, 1997;

(b) what arc the salient features of the project so cleared; and

(c) whether the project was opposed tooth and nail by the Bombay Environment Action Group (BEAG), if so, what were the points of protest by the Group?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The proposed Mumbai-Pune Expressway was accorded environmental clearance on 13th October, 1997 taking into account the related environmental issues. The revised proposal as cleared by the Ministry of Environment & Forests envisages linking it with the National Highway NH-4 from Adoshi. The NH-4 will be widened from four to six lanes up to the top of the mountain at Khandala where it will follow the Lonawala-Khandala Bypass up to Kusgaon. A connector will link the Bypass to the proposed Kusgaon interchange of the Expressway.

(c) The Bombay Environmental Action Group opposed the original alignment of the Project as according to them:

(i) it cuts through forests which contain endangered species;

(ii) it will affect the ecosystem;

(iii) since the alignment passes through Lonawala Lake, it may affect the water movement;

(iv) grazing areas will be affected;

(v) adjoining agricultural lands may be flooded during monsoon; and

(vi) by adopting alternate route, displacement of persons will be less.

The alignment has since been revised,

दिल्ली में आसफ अली रोड और बसंत कुन्ज में व्याप्त प्रदूषण

345. श्री सूर्याभान पाटील वहाडणे: क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या अरुणा आसफ अली रोड और बी-4, बसन्त कुंज के मध्य भाग वाली जमीन पर चल रहे कारखानों द्वारा प्रदुषण फैलाए जाने के संबंध में शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) ब्रिटेन की महारानी की हाल की यात्रा के दौरान व्यक्त किए गए इन विचारों कि "विश्व का चौथा सबसे अधिक प्रदूषित शहर होने के साथ साथ दिल्ली का नाम बदनाम भी हो गया है" के परिप्रेक्ष्य में बसन्त कुंज में फैली इस गन्दगी और प्रदूषण को रोकने के लिए सरकार क्या उपाय/कार्यवाही कर रही है तथा सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री (प्रो. सैफुद्दीन सोज़):

(क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पुर प्रस्तुत कर दी जायेगी।

Clearance of the H.E. Projects in Orissa

346. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has cleared Sindol, Hirakud B and Chiplima B H.E. Project of Orissa; and

(b) if so, what arc the details thereof?

THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The application for environmental clearance